

United States Patent Application

Title of the Invention

**CODE DIVISION MULTIPLE ACCESS MOBILE
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

Inventors

**May SUZUKI,
Nobukazu DOI,
Takashi YANO.**

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As for an example of a conventional cell search method, a method of spreading only one symbol located at the end of a slot by using a special short code called long code masked symbol instead of the ordinary long code and short code is described in Technical Report of IEICE (the Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers) DSP-96-116, SAT96-111, RCS96-122 (1997-01).

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control channel and transmission channel). The long code has a long code length and includes many kinds. In order to facilitate its timing synchronization, therefore, the long code is classified into a plurality of groups. The GISC is a short period code provided so as to correspond to the classification of the long code. In the case where the mobile terminal is to conduct timing synchronization of the perch channels, the mobile terminal lightens the load of synchronization of the long code used by the base station (i.e., decreases time, circuit means, electric power, etc. required for the timing synchronization), by detecting the GISC and narrowing down the long code to a fixed range (i.e., by limiting candidates for the long code which may be used). The CSC is a short period spreading code defined uniquely to the mobile communication system.

The detection of the long code and the frame/slot timing used by the base station, utilizing the perch channels is conducted as follows: (1) the mobile terminal despreads the perch channels by using the CSC, and detects the slot timing on the basis of the height of the correlation value; (2) the mobile terminal conducts desreading in all GISCs in conformity to the synchronized slot timing, and detects the GISC on the basis of the height of the correlation value; (3) the mobile terminal conducts desreading by using all long codes belonging to a group associated with the GISC, and detects the long code on the basis of the height of the

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correlation value.

The format and transmission power of the perch channels of the conventional method are shown in FIG. 2. The symbol rate of the perch channels is 16 kbps (spreading factor being 256) and constant in all sections including the long code masked symbol. In the long code masked symbol section in which the second perch channel is transmitted, transmission power P_1 of the first perch channel is lowered by transmission power P_2 of the second perch channel. Thereby, transmission power of the perch channels after multiplexing is constant.

In the conventional system which conducts spreading process in the long code masked symbol section at the same symbol rate as in the data symbol section, it took the longest time in a first stage (slot timing synchronization) of the cell search. In order to conduct timing synchronization in a short time, a matched filter (MF) capable of deriving correlation results at a plurality of timing instants at once is used in many cases.

FIG. 13 shows time required in each stage of the cell search in the case where cell search is conducted by despread the perch channels having a spreading factor of 256, by use of a MF with 64 chips. The stage requiring the longest time is slot timing synchronization 1301. For attaining faster cell search, it is an indispensable subject to shorten the time

required for timing synchronization. In timing synchronization using the MF, correlation values at all timing instants in one symbol (256 chips) section are accumulated by using CSCs of a plurality of slots, thereby conducting slot timing synchronization at high precision. For example, correlation values derived for CSCs of 48 slots are accumulated. In FIG. 13, one accumulation value with respect to timing instants of 64 chips which is the same in number as the number of taps of the MF is derived in one cycle 1301 of timing synchronization.

If the MF with 64 taps is used, coefficient mode switchover becomes necessary in order to derive correlation values at all timing instants. This results in a problem that the time required for timing synchronization, in turn the time required for cell search becomes longer. On the other hand, if a MF with 256 taps is used, then the received signal can be despread with coefficients corresponding to one symbol set in the MF intact. Since the coefficient mode switchover thus becomes unnecessary, correlation at all timing instants can be derived at high speed. However, both the gate size and power consumption of the MF become very large.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In order to conduct the cell search at high speed while suppressing the gate size and the power consumption, the spreading factor of the long code

masked symbol is made smaller than spreading factors of other portions of the perch channels.

In particular, a symbol rate according to typical number of taps of the MF used in the mobile terminal is determined. For example, in the case where the spreading factor of the mask symbol is 64, timing synchronization is conducted by using a MF with 64 taps. In this case, the symbol length coincides with the number of taps of the MF. With coefficients corresponding to one symbol set in the MF intact, therefore, it is possible to conduct despreading of the received signal and conduct search of all timing instants in the 64 chip section. Without increasing the gate size and power consumption, fast cell search thus becomes possible.

By referring to detailed description of preferred embodiments described below and accompanied drawing, these or other objects, features, and advantages will become more apparent.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a diagram showing a channel format of perch channels;

FIG. 2 is a diagram showing a channel format and transmission power of perch channels of a conventional system;

FIG. 3 is a diagram showing a channel format and transmission power of perch channels of a first embodiment;

FIG. 5 is a diagram showing a channel format and transmission power of perch channels of a third embodiment;

FIG. 7 is a diagram showing shortening of the search time, and reduction of the circuit scale and transmission power;

FIG. 9 is a diagram showing a configuration example of a cell search timing synchronization unit of a mobile terminal;

FIG. 11 is a diagram showing a configuration example of a first long code detection unit of a mobile terminal;

FIG. 13 is a diagram showing time required at each stage of the cell search.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

First of all, the configuration of a mobile terminal used in a CDMA mobile communication system according to the present invention will be described by referring to FIG. 8. A received signal of a carrier frequency received from an antenna is lowered in frequency by an RF unit 801. The received signal of the baseband is inputted to a cell searcher 805 and a receiver 804 via an RF interface 802. The cell searcher 805 conducts the above described cell search. The receiver 804 conducts despreading, error correction and the like of physical channels other than the perch channels. The decoded received signal is outputted via a user interface 807, and subjected to subsequent processing. A transmission signal to be transmitted to the base station is inputted to a transmitter 803 via the user interface 807. The transmitter 803 conducts coding and spreading of the transmission signal. A controller 806 conducts initial value setting in various units and timing management by using a DSP (Digital Signal Processor).

FIGS. 9 to 12 show configuration examples of respective blocks. FIG. 9 shows the configuration of a timing synchronizer 810. In the timing synchronizer 810, it is necessary to derive correlation values of timing corresponding to one symbol. Therefore, an MF 901 capable of providing correlation results at a plurality of timing instants at a time is used. As for

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As a first embodiment, FIG. 3 shows a channel format and transmission power in the case where spreading factors of the CSC and GISC are made smaller (64 in the example) than those of other symbols of the perch channels, and the CSC and GISC are inserted at different timing instants. In order to prevent other ordinary symbol portions from being affected, a masked symbol section 131 is made to have 256 chips in the same way as the conventional system. The CSC and GISC may be inserted in any section of four sections (133, 134, 135 and 136) obtained by dividing the mask symbol section at intervals of 64 chips. In the case where the symbol length of the GISC becomes short and consequently the number of GISCs is not enough for the number of classes of the long code which GISCs are assigned to, it is also possible to adopt such a method that long code identification groups are sorted out according to which of the four insertion sections they are inserted. In the masked symbol section, sections other than those of CSC and GISC are provided with no symbols.

If the symbol length is shortened, the number of times of possible accumulation times decreases. For obtaining the same receiving sensitivity, therefore, the transmission power must be raised. However, the perch channels are always subjected to transmission with constant power. In addition, the long code masked symbol portion is poor in orthogonality, and therefore, tends to exert interference power to other channels.

Therefore, it is desirable to suppress the transmission power as low as possible. In the present embodiment, therefore, the CSC and GISC are not multiplexed, but the CSC and GISC are transmitted by time division in the long code masked symbol portion. Even if the spreading factor is reduced to $1/4$ at this time, transmission power P_3 of the CSC is twice the transmission power P_1 of the conventional technique and the same reception sensitivity is obtained. The same is true of the transmission power P_4 of the GISC.

As a second embodiment, FIG. 4 shows a channel format and transmission power in the case where the spreading factors of the CSC and GISC are made sufficiently small (16 in the example) as compared with other symbols of the perch channels, and the CSC and GISC are multiplexed and transmitted. It is necessary to make transmission power P_5 of the CSC and transmission power P_6 of the GISC large so as to correspond to the spreading factors. If the symbol rate of channels other than perch channels is fast, then the number of perch channels which are affected by the fact that the perch channel power is increased will become large. In such a case, by multiplexing the CSC and GISC to shorten the section in which the transmission power becomes large as in the present embodiment, although the influence of the perch channels on other channels may be large, the shortening of the affecting symbol section surely causes influence as a whole to be lightened.

As a third embodiment, FIG. 5 shows a channel format and transmission power in the case where the spreading factors of the CSC and GISC are made sufficiently small (64 in the example) as compared with other symbols of the perch channels, and the GISC is repeated a plurality of times (three time in the example). By transmitting the GISC repetitively n times, the number of accumulation times is increased, and accordingly transmission power P_8 of the GISC of one time is equal to $1/n$ of transmission power P_7 of the CSC. As a result, influence on other channels is suppressed.

As a fourth embodiment, FIG. 6 shows a channel format and transmission power in the case where the spreading factor of the CSC is made smaller than that of the GISC (in the example, the spreading factor of the CSC is 64 and the spreading factor of the GISC is 256). In the above described three stages of the cell search, the GISC detection can be conducted by despreading only at timing designated from the CSC, and a correlator is used instead of the MF in many cases (as shown in FIG. 10, for example). As in the present embodiment, therefore, the speed of the search can be raised while suppressing the interference on other channels, by making the spreading factor of the CSC affecting the number of taps of the MF small and making the spreading factor of the GISC larger than it in order to suppress the transmission power.

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long code masked symbol small, the time required for
timing synchronization can be made shorter than that of
the conventional method, and the number of taps of the
MF can be shortened, resulting in reduced gate size and
0 power consumption.

The present invention has been disclosed in connection with the preferred embodiments. Those skilled in the art can apply various modifications to the embodiments on the basis of the disclosure. All
15 modifications existing within the true spirit and scope of the present invention are incorporated in the claims.